

The Bindschatel '120 patent and the Ogorzalek '087 patent relate to stencil devices, i.e., devices that must be repositioned in order to apply an image along the length of a working surface. The Murphy '872 is not even a masking device. Rather, it is directed to a relief image printing plate. As such, the invention of the Murphy '872 is not removably adhered to an entire portion of the working surface along the length of the working surface.

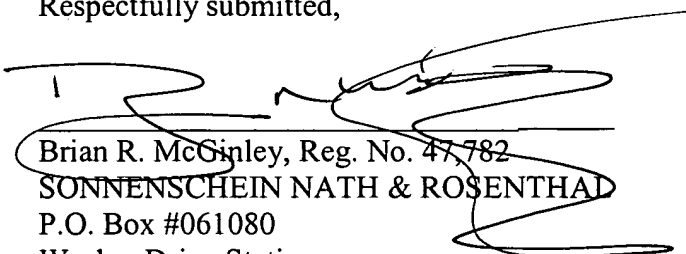
Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to more clearly recite Applicant's claimed invention. All of the remaining claims depend either from claim 1 or claim 6. None of the cited reference, whether alone or combined, teach or suggest applicant claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that its claimed invention, as amended, has overcome the Examiner's objections to the claims.

C. **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw all objections to the specification, drawings and claims and place this Application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

November 5, 2002



Brian R. McGinley, Reg. No. 47,782
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station
Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Tel. No. (816) 460-2400
Fax. No. (816) 531-7545
Attorney for Applicant

Version With Marking To Show Changes Made

1. (Amended) A masking apparatus for transferring an image to a working surface, comprising:

(a) a mask formed from a unitary and continuous substrate, the mask having an outer surface and an inner surface; said inner surface having an adhesive disposed thereon;

(b) a backing removably affixed to said mask at said inner surface;

(c) a plurality of designs formed in said mask;

(d) said mask adapted to be removably attached to said working surface at said inner surface; and

(e) [said apparatus] wherein said mask is configured to be selectively dispensable in a generally longitudinal direction along the working surface to continuously cover and be removably adhered to [the] an entire longitudinal portion of the working surface where the image is to be transferred regardless of the length of such working surface such that the apparatus does not have to be repeatedly applied after each use to achieve the image transfer along the working surface.

6. A masking apparatus for transferring an image to a working surface, comprising:

(a) a mask formed from a unitary and continuous substrate, the mask having an outer surface and an inner surface; said inner surface having an adhesive disposed thereon and a backing removably affixed to said mask at said inner surface;

(b) said mask having a plurality of precut designs; said designs generally repeat along at least a portion of said mask to form a design pattern; and

(c) said mask adapted to be removably attached to said working surface at said inner surface[.];

(d) wherein said mask is configured to be selectively dispensable in a generally longitudinal direction along the working surface to continuously cover and be affixedly adhered to an entire longitudinal portion of the working surface where the image is to be transferred regardless of the length of such working surface such that the apparatus does not have to be repeatedly applied after each use to achieve the image transfer along the working surface.